
**State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee**

HJM 4025

Brief Description: Honoring Vietnam veterans.

Sponsors: Representatives O'Brien, Campbell, Seaquist, Appleton, McCune, Kelley, Warnick, Armstrong, Sells, Morrell, Maxwell, Van De Wege, Simpson, Conway, Smith, Shea, Pearson, Johnson, Hurst and Kenney.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Urges the executive branch and the legislative authorities of each county to promote a statewide effort to honor and support the Republic of South Vietnam veterans and American veterans of the Vietnam War.

Hearing Date: 1/29/10

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

Thousands of Washington residents served in the Vietnam War and more than 1,100 did not return home. South Vietnamese soldiers fought alongside American soldiers during the war and, as a result, died or spent years imprisoned or persecuted in Vietnam after the war. Sixty thousand Vietnamese-Americans now live in Washington State and the majority of these are soldiers of the Republic of South Vietnam and their families who fled or immigrated from Vietnam after the war, many under the Orderly Departure Program.

The Vietnam Veterans Committee of Washington has been formed to recognize the contributions of the Republic of South Vietnam soldiers who fought alongside the United States and has proposed that a series of three flag poles be placed at the Washington State Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Campus.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The executive branch of the state of Washington and the legislative authorities of each county are urged to promote a statewide effort to encourage Vietnam veterans to work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Vietnam Veterans Committee of Washington to plan appropriate opportunities for joint ceremonies and events bringing these two groups of veterans together and fostering a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, and to propose other means of jointly honoring and supporting the Republic of South Vietnam and American veterans of the Vietnam War.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.